

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2 and 5-17 have been cancelled, without prejudice, by the above amendment.

SECOND REQUEST FOR IDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In response to the March 8, 2005, Office Action, Applicant requested that an initialed copy of a Form PTO-1449 filed with an IDS on January 14, 2004, be provided. The request is repeated below:

Two IDS's have been filed in this case, one on January 14, 2004, and another on December 9, 2004. An initialed copy of form PTO-1449 from the December IDS was attached to the March 8, 2005, Office Action. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 from the January IDS was not provided. It is respectfully requested that the examiner provide an initialed copy of this second form PTO-1449 to show the references thereon were considered with the next communication in this case.

A copy of the PTO-1449 was not provided with the July 15, 2005, Office Action. The July 15, 2005, Office Action makes no mention of the IDS or of Applicant's request. Upon checking the image file wrapper for this case, it was found that the January 14, 2004, IDS is not present in the image file wrapper. Applicant therefore encloses herewith a copy of the IDS filed January 14, 2004, copies of the references cited in that IDS, a copy of the foreign Office Action that discusses the relevance of the references and a copy of a postcard receipt date-stamped by the PTO showing that the IDS, references, and foreign Office Action showing the relevance of the references were received in the U.S. PTO on January 14, 2004. The consideration of these references and the return of the initialed PTO-1449 is therefore respectfully requested.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The final Office Action dated June 15, 2005, has been received and reviewed. In that Office Action, it was indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of its base claim. By the above amendment, the limitations of claim 2 have been

added to claim 4, and claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 4.

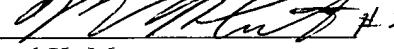

In view of the above amendment, which addresses or obviates all issues raised in the Office Action dated July 15, 2005, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 3 and 4 is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 17, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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